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Local Man Is Linked To Shooting Of Libyan

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A Cumberland County man has been identified as a link between a former CIA agent working for Libya and a New Mexico man accused of shooting a Libyan dissident in Colorado in 1980.

James "Jimmy" Dean, a resident of the Montclair subdivision off Raeford Road, allegedly recruited Eugene Tafoya, 47, to shoot a Libyan student attending Colorado State University, according to prosecutors in the case quoted by a Denver newspaper this morning.

Tafoya, of Truth or Consequences, N.M., is charged with attempted murder and conspiracy in the October 1980 shooting of Faisal Zagallai, 35, at his Fort Collins, Colo., apartment.

Prosecutors in the case claim Libyan strongman Moammar Khadafy ordered the shooting to silence Zagallai's opposition to his regime.

Former CIA agent Edwin P. Wilson, now living in Libya to avoid prosecution on charges of exporting explosives to Khadafy, got Dean to recruit Tafoya for the mission, Colorado prosecutors claim.

The Rocky Mountain News reported this morning that Larimer County District Judge J. Robert Miller issued an order Wednesday for Dean to appear at Tafoya's trial as a material witness.

Cumberland County District At-

torney Ed Grannis Jr. said Wednesday his office needs to receive interstate rendition papers from Colorado before attempting to contact Dean to testify.

Grannis said his office had not received notice of the order and that such paperwork takes about one week to process.

Dean, chairman of the executive board of the Special Forces Association, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

But an official of the organization who spoke with Dean Wednesday said neither he nor association President Bill "Pappy" Greer would comment on the matter.

"I talked to Jimmy and Pappy Greer tonight, and they both said they didn't have any comment to make to the press," said Dick Bishop, editor of the association's quarterly publication, "The Drop."

Prosecutors say Dean recruited Tafoya for the shooting and paid him \$8,000 in London after the incident, according to the Colorado newspaper.

Zagallai, a graduate student at Colorado State University, when he was shot, was hit twice in the head with .22-caliber slugs and lost sight in his left eye.

Prosecutors want Dean to testify at the trial in order to establish that Tafoya was working for Wilson when he shot Zagallai, the newspaper reported.

Wilson was indicted in Los Angeles in 1980 for allegedly

illegally exporting explosives to Libya and is believed to be living in Tripoli.

Wilson also allegedly organized and financed a training program for Libyan terrorists by one active-duty and nine former Green Berets in 1977.

That operation began in July 1977 when a man identified as Patry Loomis, who said he was a CIA agent, contacted Luke Thompson, then a Special Forces master sergeant at Fort Bragg.

A squad of former Green Berets was organized and Loomis said they would receive \$4,500 monthly plus bonuses. Thompson reportedly told Special Forces superiors of the plan and received special leave to go on the operation.